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SIDDHARTA

STAR OF MYSORE

OUR EVERNING DAILY

Vol. 43 No. 44 Pages: 12 Rs. 2.00
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MYSURU Tuesday 7th April 2020
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REDUCE YOUR RISK OF
CORONAVIRUS
INFECTION
Clean hands with soap and water or alcohol-based hand rub
Cover nose and mouth when coughing with tissue or flexed elbow
Avoid close contact with anyone with cold or flu-like symptoms
SOUTHERN STAR

Tiger tests positive for Coronavirus in American Zoo

Mysuru Zoo on high alert

Mysuru, Apr. 7 (MTY&KS)- Following a circular from the Central Zoo Authority (CZA) advising all Zoos in the country to be on high alert following a tiger at Bronx Zoo in New York, USA, testing positive for COVID-19 (Coronavirus), Sri Chamarajendra Zoological Gardens (Mysuru Zoo), which is spread across 157 acres and houses more than 168 species, too is on high alert with the Zoo authorities taking precautionary steps to prevent animals from contracting the deadly virus.

The CZA circular also says, "Mammals like carnivores especially cats, ferrets and primates to be carefully monitored and fortnightly samples of suspected cases to be sent to the designated animal health institutes to initiate COVID-19 testing while following all bio-containment and safety measures required to handle this high risk pathogen as per the national and ICMR guidelines."

As of now, safety measures such as maintaining social distancing, thermal gun screening, wearing mask and sanitising hands for all personnel attending essential services like feeding animals, cleaning animal enclosures, maintenance of gardens is in place at Mysuru Zoo and rotation method adopted to give required rest to personnel.

The Mysuru Zoo authorities are keeping a watch on carnivorous animals on 24x7 basis using CCTV cameras to keep a check for any abnormal behaviour or symptoms, not allowing animal- keepers or handlers in the vicinity without safety gears etc.

Zoo Authority of Karnataka (ZAK) Member-Secretary B.P. Ravi, speaking to *Star of Mysore* said that every vehicle carrying food and fodder to the animals at Zoo is being disinfected as a routine process. In the wake of COVID-19, every staff at the Zoo is instructed to wear masks and use sanitisers. He said that like in many Zoos abroad, where the animal-keepers touch the animals and hold shows, no such things take place in any Zoo in the country, but still, preventive steps are being taken.

Mysuru Zoo Executive Director Ajit M. Kulkarni said that the virus usually spreads from humans to animals and hence preventive steps are in place at the Zoo from early days. He said that every Zoo employee should walk over the disinfectant mat and then enter the Zoo premises where they are checked for body temperature.

If at all anyone is found sick, they would not be allowed to enter the Zoo premises and would be sent to hospital, Ajit Kulkarni said and added that apart from wearing masks and using sanitisers, instructions have been given to the staff to maintain social distancing.

Stating that the meat procured to feed animals is first washed in hot water, he said it would be fed only after the MCC Health Officer and Zoo Veterinarians certify that the meat is safe.

Leave with pay: The Zoo Executive Director said that a few employees coming from Nanjangud and Bannur have been given leave with pay for 15 days as a precautionary measure.

Among the 168 species, the Mysuru Zoo houses 14 tigers, three lions, 24 leopards / panthers and eight jackals.

Get your pets tested if they display abnormal behaviour

As pet dogs in Thailand and Hong Kong have tested positive for COVID-19, Deputy Director of Animal Husbandry Department Dr. S.C. Suresh has urged pet owners in Mysuru to get their pets tested if they displayed any abnormal behaviour and variation in their health condition. Speaking to *SOM* this morning, Dr. Suresh said that a few people who are under quarantine in the country had got their dogs and cats tested and added that a person who was infected with Coronavirus had taken his pet dog to a veterinarian in Manipal to get it tested. However, his pet dog tested negative while the owner got admitted in a Hospital. Dr. Suresh also said that there are no reports of any pet animals being tested positive for Coronavirus in India.

To Our Readers

Turn to Page-6 for Abracadabra titled ***"Musings on power of prayer and lighting of oil lamps !"***

Turn to Page-5 ***for an article titled "Some Pandemics in History" by Dr. C.D. Sreenivasa Murthy.*** ***—Ed***

Bakeries can supply products only to stores and markets: DC clarifies

Mysuru, Apr.7 (PM&DM)- Ending confusion regarding re-opening of bakeries in city, Deputy Commissioner (DC) Abhiram G. Sankar said that bakeries are only permitted to bake items like bread, biscuits and buns in bulk and supply them directly to stores and markets.

Speaking to presspersons at JSS School Grounds in Raghavendranagar where the Mysore Citizens Forum (MCF) launched distribution of Ration Kits to the poor and needy this morning, Abhiram Sankar, clarifying on yesterday's Government Order relaxing lockdown regulations in respect of Bakeries and Confectioneries, said that however in Mysuru District, which has reported 35 Corona positive cases so far, bakeries cannot sell items directly to customers in person but instead can produce them in bulk and supply directly to shops and supermarkets.

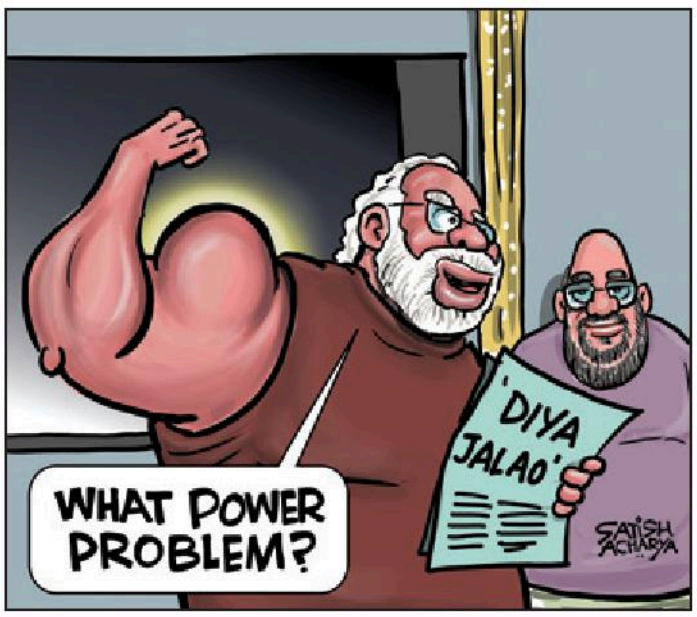
Referring to COVID-19 cases in Mysuru, he said the District has reported 35 positive cases, out of which one patient is likely to be discharged from the Hospital today following recovery.

Pointing out that blood and throat swab samples of symptomatic persons are also being sent to a Bengaluru Lab since yesterday, he said this is done with to get the reports faster.

Maintaining that Mysuru District has not hit the Community Transmission Stage, he said that tracing and stopping of Delhi Jamaat participants and their primary contacts at District borders has largely helped in containing the spread of the virus.

Referring to Nanjangud's Jubilant Generics, the epicentre of Coronavirus spread in the District, the DC said that samples of the raw materials imported from China have been sent to NABL Laboratory in Pune for testing and reports are awaited. He ruled out reopening of the Pharmaceutical Unit for now.

STAR PUNCH By Satish Acharya



STAR OF MYSORE

"We believe comment is free, but facts are sacred."

Editor: M. GOVINDE GOWDA, M.A.

Editor-in-Chief K.B. Ganapathy B.A.; B.L.

Mysuru, Tuesday 7th April 2020

Multilingual Masses

While English language is a legacy that the land's literati owe to the British rule for several decades and Hindi is the tongue of about one-third of the country's people, all the languages spoken by its masses reportedly number 1,562, making India unsurpassed by any country across the world for its multilingual diaspora. Classical language status has been conferred on six languages namely, Kannada (2008), Tamil (2004), Telugu (2008), Malayalam (2013), Odiya (2014) and Sanskrit (2005), based on their antiquity, although the order of dates shown in brackets wrongly places Sanskrit in second place. If the terms figuring in virtually all these languages and the variation in their spoken style, both of which are known to be diverse even in their respective exclusive regions, such as Karnataka, the number of tongues spoken by the masses, particularly for verbal communication, far exceeds the number listed by the Mysuru-based Central Institute of Indian Languages (CIIL). The stock of literature in the country's languages, including those without script, such as Tulu, Konkani and Kodava is a rich source of its cultural history of more than 20 centuries.

Scholars are of the view that all the languages of India's Southern States as well as Odiya and Burmese have drawn heavily from Brahmi script for creating the literature in their respective languages. India's urbanities, thanks to intermingling of people of many regions, are known to be freely using at least three languages while interacting among them. Finding residents of cities with familiarity of five languages, including English, is no big deal.

Rustics are known to speak in languages specific to their restricted territories by virtue of the necessity to be engaged in the task of raising food crops. Urban population, polyglots as they are, abounds in people knowing and also using several languages, Bengaluru hosting them in large numbers, making staunch Kannadigas red-faced. The King of erstwhile State of Travancore Padmanabhadasa Sree Swathi Thirunal Rama Verma (1813-1846), known for his musical compositions, was a perfect master of Sanskrit, English, Persian, Hindustani, Marathi, Telugu, Kannada, Tamil and Malayalam. Another outstanding personality who was conversant in 12 languages as a polyglot was P.V. Narasimha Rao (1921-2004), former Prime Minister of India.

Protagonists of the stand taken against languages other than their lingo seem to be blind to the multiple advantages of knowing many languages and the delight of speaking to strangers in their tongue. A broad *smile* is said to lead to instant bond between persons who meet for the first time, *language* possesses the same power and cements the bond that endures. Driven by the thought of *"Let entire world be happy in life"* (*Loka Samastha Sukhino Bhavanthu*), the land's people shall sustain happiness by learning many languages. Love for one's language need not lead to disfavour for other languages.

EDITOR'S BOTTOMLINE

Globalisation is in the crosshairs. International trade and travel have spread the deadly Coronavirus across 203 countries that has already killed more than 30,000 people and many more are likely to die before the pandemic is contained. Popular narrative blames it all on globalisation, and the clamour for reducing global interconnectedness is getting louder. The open-ended fear of uncertainty is creating psychological and material scars on companies across the world. Some have even celebrated the contagion. They have talked about the return of local manufacturing and jobs because of the virus originating in China and crippling that country's manufacturing. Self-preservation has overtaken all other priorities.

—Sanjay Kirloskar in Business Standard

NEWS SPARKLERS

Family with three children smoke 'herbal cigarettes' to 'fight Coronavirus'

Jakarta: A shocking video of a family including three young children smoking herbal cigarettes has gone viral in Indonesia.

The bizarre video shows the whole family sitting on the floor and puffing away. Among the smokers were two young boys — one of whom looks to be as young as five-year-old — who were each holding their own cigarettes and the woman, with a cigarette in hand, is seen cradling an even smaller child on her lap while she smoked.

It is claimed the family, in Indonesia, believe inhaling the herbs will help them fight off coronavirus. A man, who appears to be the one filming, can be heard saying off camera: "In order to resist the coronavirus, we, as a family, are smoking.

The Ministry for Women Empowerment and Child Protection tweeted on Saturday saying the video showed "irresponsible parenting" and appealed to people to help identify the family involved.

Mum turns green after epic fake tan fail

Manchester: Mum-of-two Jenni Coleman says that she was left looking like the 'Wicked Witch of the West' after making an epic fake tan fail.

Jenni, the 35-year-old from Manchester noticed an odd green tinge as she applied a couple layers of tan before bed one night - but "cracked on" anyway.

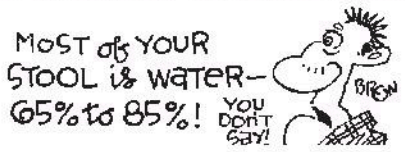
It was only when she woke up the next morning that she realised her huge mistake. Jenni was green from head to toe.

She said the fake tan fail was shared by her friend Jan as a throwback picture from four years ago as a joke that lockdown would be 'a good time to work on your tan'.

HEALTH CAPSULE

by Bron Smith

How much difference does dietary fibre make in the bowel movement?



The weight of our stool increases by 2 grams for every 1 gram of fibre that we consume in our diet. That's because when the fibre in our food ferments, it greatly increases the growth of bacteria. The majority of the content of our stool is trillions, yes, trillions of gut bacteria.

**Health Capsules is not intended to be of a diagnostic nature.*

Forum Mall serves food for needy, Corona heroes

Mysuru, Apr. 7 (KS) - Forum Mall, Mysuru, in order to serve the needy provided food to those hit by the lockdown in city.

The Mall has set a target to serve 500 meals daily during the challenging lockdown period. They have also taken up the initiative to serve food for everyday Corona heroes — Police serving in Police Stations in its vicinity till the end of lockdown.

"Our target is to reach underprivileged children and their families daily until the lockdown ends through Prestige Foundation. Children of daily wage earners have no recourse to any sort of sustainable income under this forced lockdown," said R. Dhanasekaran, Centre Manager of Forum Mall, Mysuru.

Really...?

- ***The world's quietest room is located at Microsoft's headquarters in Washington State: Silence is golden, as they say. And while it may not be worth quite as much as jewels and gold to most people, it certainly was the primary goal for those who built the quietest room in the world. Located at Microsoft's headquarters in Redmond, Washington, the lab room measures a background noise of -20.35 dBA, which is 20 decibels below the threshold of human hearing and breaks previous records for spaces that were deemed the planet's quietest places.***

LAUGHTER THE BEST MEDICINE

Patient: *Doctor, I think that I've been bitten by a vampire.*
Doctor: *Drink this glass of water.*
Patient: *Will it make me better?*
Doctor: *No, I but I'll be able to see if your neck leaks!!*

Today's Currency Rate

1 US Dollar	= Rs. 75.92
1 UK Pound	= Rs. 93.11
1 UAE Dirham	= Rs. 20.67
1 Euro	= Rs. 82.10

VOICE OF THE READER

Summer is here. Stop wastage of water

Sir,

While we are all in the midst of an existential fight against COVID-19, we have to make sure that we don't have to fight a second front in the form of water scarcity. The summer is already upon us and the hotter days to come will be a test of our civic responsibility to conserve water, the most precious natural resource, by avoiding wasteful practices.

In recent years, residents of Mysuru have been covering the entire frontage of their houses, both old and new, with cement aprons extending up to the tarred road. This is ostensibly to make the area more suitable to park their car/s outside when they have no garage built for the purpose.

Using public space for parking cars is by itself a questionable practice, but I would like to focus on how this has led to terrible wastage of drinking water. It is, in fact, a double whammy. First, it completely prevents rain water in monsoon months from percolating into the ground and augmenting the ground water table.

A further offshoot of this pernicious practice is the washing of this area with precious drinking water by the ladies of the houses with a hose pipe in their hands. Behind this act is the feeling that the paved portion is an extended portion of their house. So it is a double whammy!

The MCC should step in and stop owners of houses from constructing cement aprons in front of their houses and ask them to remove them except for the part in front of gates. This will be a big step towards water conservation.

The washing of cars using hose pipes also needs to be stopped completely. One bucketful of water is all that is needed to clean a car. It is a sin to waste water like this when womenfolk in our country have to trudge miles to get meagre supply for use.

—Agrahar Ramachandra Rao
Kuvempunagar
5.4.2020

Canara Bank launches Mobile Micro ATM facility

Mysuru, Apr.7- K.B. Geetha, RO Head, Canara Bank Regional Office, Mysuru, recently launched Micro Mobile ATM with the help of Business Correspondent agents to facilitate disbursement of amount to PM-JDY women and PM Kisan beneficiaries at their doorsteps to curtail the spread of COVID-19.

The Micro ATM will give service in all the villages and wards of Mysuru and Chamarajanagar Districts to facilitate the customers to stay at their home and avail the financial services from Canara Bank, according to a press release fromthe Senior Manager of Canara Bank AF & PS Section. [Ph: +91 821 2528257 or 2528344].

Railways convert 2,500 coaches into Isolation Wards

New Delhi, Apr. 7- The Indian Railways has converted 2,500 coaches into Isolation Wards to treat COVID-19 patients.

The Railways, which has set a target of converting 5,000 coaches into Isolation Wards, has converted 2,500 coaches into Isolation Wards in the first phase, officials said.

With the conversion of around 2,500 coaches, 40,000 isolation beds are now ready for use, the Railways said in a statement.

"Once the prototype was approved, conversion action was started quickly by Zonal Railways. On an average 375 coaches are being converted by Indian Railways in a day. The work is being carried out at 133 locations in the country," it is said.

Only SP and DC can issue inter-district passes

Bengaluru, Apr. 7- Based on the complaints received by Chief Minister B.S. Yediyurappa, the Government yesterday clarified that inter-district transport passes can be issued only by the Deputy Commissioner (DC) or the Superintendent of Police (SP) and not the Tahsildars or the local Police.

In a letter to all DCs and SPs by Chief Secretary T.M. Vijay Bhaskar, he said that the Chief Minister received information on Tahsildars and the local Police issuing inter-district passes.

Ryshyanth, SP *Abhiram Sankar, DC*

Social distancing is duty, not discretion during pandemic: SC

New Delhi, Apr. 7- The Supreme Court (SC) has institutionalised video-conferencing during lockdown period and said every individual and institution must implement measures designed by Health Authorities and Governments to reduce the spread of COVID-19.

While providing modalities for use of video-conferencing facilities for hearing of urgent cases and even recording of evidence, a bench of CJI S.A. Bobde, Justices L. Nageswara Rao and D.Y. Chandrachud said, "Faced with the unprecedented and extraordinary outbreak of a pandemic, it is necessary that Courts at all levels respond to the call of social distancing and ensure that Court premises do not contribute to the spread of the virus. This is not a matter of discretion but duty."

SWR comes in aid of needy people

Bengaluru, Apr. 7- The Hubballi Division of the South Western Railway (SWR), along with the IRCTC, has reached out to the needy people serving them with provision of food packets, ration package and other essential items.

Staff, officers and their families have joined hands to feed the hungry. The Division has done commendable work during the crisis by distributing around 9,800 food packets since the beginning of lockdown to the stranded and the homeless labourers, jobless porters, slum dwellers and other needy persons in and around various Stations across the Division.

From Mar. 29 to Apr. 5, the Hubballi Division has supplied daily about 1,225 free meals to the needy people. This has been done by personal contribution of staff, officers and group efforts, involving women welfare organisations and NGOs. The Railway Protection Force (RPF) personnel are not only ensuring the distribution of food packets, but they are voluntarily sponsoring food to the needy people.

RPF Vasco-Da-Gama distributed bread and tea to 162 people at Vasco Station yesterday.

the AMAZING SPIDER-MAN
By Stan Lee
NO SIGN OF THE HOBGOBLIN...
BUT AT LEAST THAT GIVES US A CHANCE TO TALK.
SO YOU'RE THE NOTORIOUS BLACK WIDOW!
AND YOU'RE THE FAMOUS SPIDER-MAN!
AND I'M MARY JANE PARKER...
...MILD-MANNERED MOVIE STAR... AND, AT THE MOMENT... SO MUCH WALLPAPER!
STAN LEE
LARRY LIEBER
8-7

NEWS BRIEFS

Transport Dept. 24x7 Helpline

The Government has launched a 24x7 Helpline to receive and resolve complaints regarding the movement of essential services. Deputy Chief Minister Laxman Savadi announced the launch of the Helpline which will also look into the issue of inter-State vehicles. It will also act as a Control Room connecting all the RTOs across the State. Organisations and public can call 080-22236698 or 94498-63214 to raise issues related to the movement of essential commodities. Alongside, the Department will also ensure availability of vehicles to move such commodity. The move by the Transport Dept. came a day after two RTO officials were suspended for demanding bribe from vegetable transporters near Anekal.

Online courses for CET, NEET

The students preparing for competitive examinations like Common Entrance Test (CET) and National Eligibility cum Entrance Test (NEET) for admission during 2020-21 academic year will be offered online courses through Keonics. Considering the proposal submitted by the Department of Technical Education, the State Higher Education Department has give approval to conduct online classes through Keonics utilising the 4G exemption provided to the company. The Department has also agreed to release Rs. 80 lakh for this purpose. Following COVID-19 lockdown, Department has taken this initiative.

Immigration Webinar for USA Kannadigas

AKKA (Association of Kannada Kootas of America) will be hosting an Immigration Webinar for the benefit of Kannadigas in USA to address immigration concerns as a result of COVID-19 pandemic situation. Many Kannadigas in USA are seeking answers pertaining to their own unique immigration status and travel situation. Immigration Attorney Amarnath Gowda will be the speaker during this Webinar. To make this Webinar effective, questions may be submitted ahead by e-mailing to COVID19@AKKAONLINE.ORG with subject "Immigration" by Apr.9. The Webinar date and time will be communicated soon, according to a press release from AKKA Committee.

Kabini Level

(Maximum : 2,284.00 feet)

Today	2,270.61 ft
Inflow	252 cusecs
Outflow	1325 cusecs

Lockdown extension inevitable if COVID-19 goes out of control: CM

Bengaluru, Apr. 7 (KMS&DM)- With the number of COVID-19 positive cases rising by the day, Chief Minister B.S. Yediyurappa said that the lockdown that will be in force till Apr.14, may be extended further.

Yediyurappa

Speaking to press persons at his official-residence 'Kaveri' here yesterday, Yediyurappa said that the co-operation of the people was most vital for stopping the spread of the virus.

Hinting that lockdown regulations may be relaxed in 14 districts where there are no Coronavirus positive cases, he said that it is likely that the lockdown may be extended in districts declared as 'Hotspots.'

Appealing the people to stay home and be safe, Yediyurappa said that it was very important for the people to maintain social distancing in order to stop the spread of the virus. Clarifying that there was no question to open Kerala border, the CM defended the State Government's decision to close the Karnataka-Kerala border, saying that the closure has largely prevented the spread of the virus in Karnataka's border districts of Mysuru, Kodagu and Dakshina Kannada. He further said that he has explained the Government's stand in this regard to former PM H.D. Deve Gowda and Opposition Leader Siddharamaiah.

Pointing out that Coronavirus knows no religion or community, Yediyurappa warned of action against those targeting a religion for the spread of the virus.

Highlighting the Government's response to the plight of farmers during the lockdown, the CM said that the farmers are allowed to transport their produce to the markets and at the same time, he has instructed the officials to ensure that there is no disruption in the supplies of seeds, fertilisers and pesticides.

Defending the appointment of Primary and Secondary Education Minister Suresh Kumar as COVID-19 Spokesperson as the Minister is easily available in Bengaluru, Yediyurappa dismissed speculations on the rift between Health Minister Sriramulu and Medical Education Minister Dr. K. Sudhakar as baseless.

Increase in COVID-19 suspects, positive cases

74 buildings being readied to house quarantine people in Mysuru

Mysuru, Apr. 7 (RK&KS)- With COVID-19 suspects and number of positive cases increasing day-by-day in the district, the District Administration, as part of its steps taken to house those under quarantine, have so far identified 74 buildings which are being readied.

Speaking to *Star of Mysore*, Deputy Commissioner (DC) Abhiram G. Sankar said that as of now, 19 suspects and those who have tested positive for COVID-19, have been quarantined at the new District Hospital building (COVID-19 Hospital) on KRS Road where they are being treated and under close observation.

The DC further said that as the number of positive cases are increasing day-by-day and if the same situation continues, there is a need for places to quarantine them. Hence, as a precautionary step, 74 Government and School buildings that are beyond the Outer Ring Road (ORR) have been identified and have been listed, the DC said and added that the District Administration has not taken these buildings under its control as of now. If there is a necessity, these identified buildings would be used as COVID-19 Quarantine Centres.

Stating that Morarji Desai and Kittur Rani Chennamma Residential School, School and College Hostels, Community Halls, Private Hospital, Lodges and Schools have been identified and reserved, the DC said that if COVID-19 cases increase, these identified buildings would be disinfected and turned into COVID-19 Quarantine Centres and provide necessary equipment.

If at all the identified buildings in city outskirts are filled, private hospitals, guest houses and lodges in city would be used to quarantine the suspects, DC Abhiram Sankar said and added that they would not listen to any objections because saving the people and preventing the spread of COVID-19 to innocent people is the responsibility of the District Administration.

Stating that the public should not suffer from the dreaded disease, the DC called upon the public not to prevent any precautionary measures being taken up by the District Administration, but display humanitarian concerns, failing which it would become inevitable to take action under Disaster Management Act.

The DC said that discussions have been held with doctors and Managing Directors (MDs) of private hospitals to allow the use of hospitals along with necessary facilities. As the Doctors and MDs have given their consent, we have got all facilities readied, he added.

Medical equipment to be used for quarantine, beds, pillows, bed spreads, drinking water bottles, medical staff, medicines, laboratory needed for nearly 2,000 bed quarantine centres have been readied, the DC said and added that these facilities were being readied keeping in mind the possibilities of increase in COVID-19 cases in future. Pregnant women, women under postnatal care, physically challenged and other patients who are identified as COVID-19 suspects, would be medically quarantined to provide treatment as per the protocol, DC Abhiram G. Sankar said.

DC warns of criminal proceedings against those who remove Home Quarantine stickers

Mysuru, Apr. 7 (SBD&DM)- Following complaints that some people who are Home Quarantined are removing stickers pasted on their houses, Deputy Commissioner Abhiram G. Sankar has warned of criminal proceedings against those found to have removed stickers.

Pointing out that stickers are pasted on the houses of those who are under Home Quarantine to ensure the safety of their own and also the health of those residing in the vicinity, the DC said that only the Health Department Officials have the authority to remove the stickers and none else.

Stating that the District Administration has come to know of removal of stickers at two places in Nanjangud, he said that he has given instructions to officials to register criminal cases against those who remove Home Quarantine stickers in the future.

Asking all persons and their primary and secondary contacts who had attended the Delhi Nizamuddin Tablighi Jamaat Meet to voluntarily undergo a health check-up at the COVID-19 Hospital, Sankar said that it was very important to do so in the interests of their family and community health.

Stating that Shab-e-Barat religious meet has been disallowed this time due to COVID-19, he said that the State Wakf Board has directed the people to offer prayers at their homes.

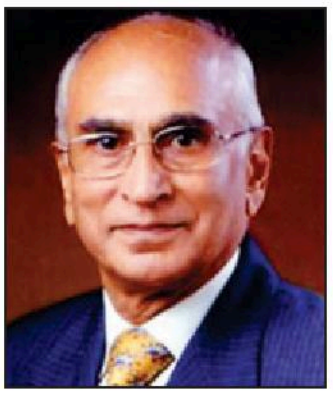
Pointing out that home delivery of ration has continued in the district, he said that so far 30 percent of card holders have been covered and the rest of the beneficiaries will be covered in a couple of days.

SP warns of action

Superintendent of Police (SP) C.B. Ryshyanth warned the people against gathering in groups. Noting that it has come to his notice that group prayer meets are taking place despite warnings, he warned of severe action against those who violate lockdown regulations.

Asking those who attended Delhi Jamaat Meet to voluntarily report themselves and undergo medical check-ups, he cautioned that action will be initiated against those who do not do so.

Some Pandemics in History



By Dr. C.D. Sreenivasa Murthy

"Transparency is critical in public health and epidemics; lay people become either effective force-multipliers or stubborn walls."

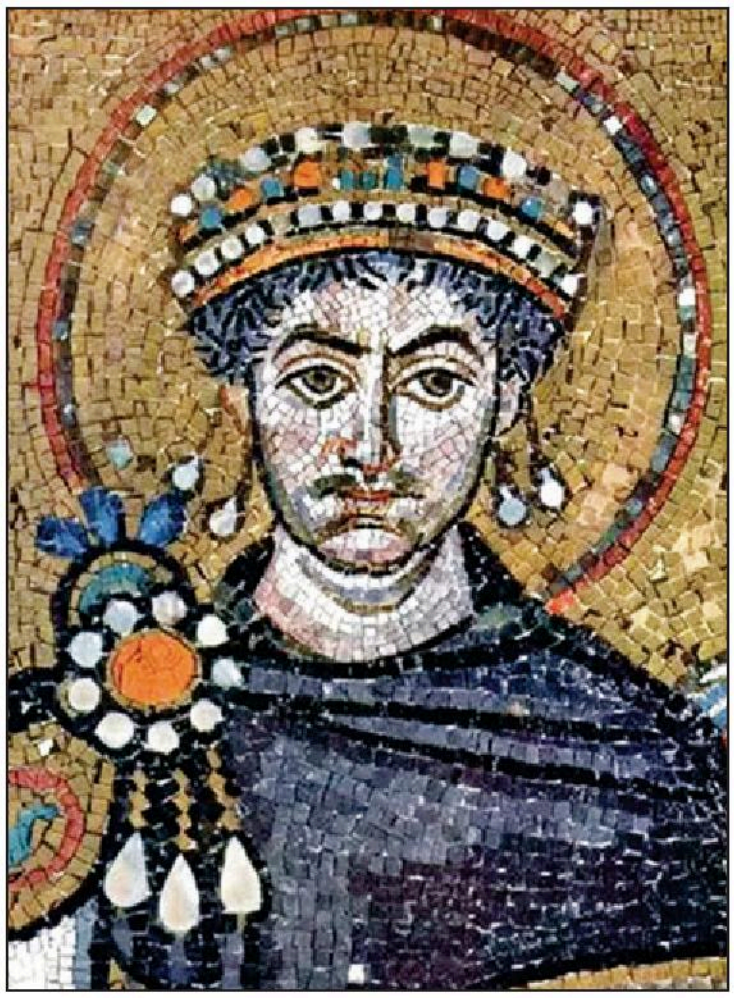
"In times of stress and danger such as come about as the result of an epidemic, many tragic and cruel phases of human nature are brought out, as well as many brave and unselfish ones."

Epidemics and pandemics have occurred throughout the course of history. Many of them have taken a toll on millions of lives and changed the destiny of nations and altered the course of human history. The World Health Organisation (WHO) defines an epidemic as a disease affecting many persons at the same time, and spreading from person to person in a locality where the disease is not permanently prevalent and as occurring at the level of a region or community. The WHO more specifically defines a pandemic as a worldwide spread of a new disease. Thus a pandemic is the global outbreak of a disease. There are many examples in history, the most recent being the **COVID-19** pandemic, declared as such by the WHO on March 12, 2020.

ANTONINE PLAGUE occurred around 165 AD in ancient Rome. Also known as the Plague of Galen, the Antonine Plague was an ancient pandemic that affected Asia Minor, Egypt, Greece and Italy and is thought to have been Smallpox. This unknown disease was brought to Rome by soldiers returning from Mesopotamia around 165 AD and unknowingly, they had spread a disease which ended up killing over 50 lakhs of people. Pax Romana (27 BC to 180 BC), which lasted about 200 years, was the period of great power and peace in ancient Rome. This plague decimated a large part of mighty Roman Army and slow decline of Roman power started with this epidemic.

PLAGUE OF JUSTINIAN happened around 541-542 AD. The plague is named after the great Byzantine Emperor Justinian (AD 527-565), who ruled a vast empire stretching from the Middle East to Western Europe. The Plague of Justinian was an outbreak of the Bubonic Plague that afflicted the Byzantine Empire and Mediterranean Port cities and killed more than two-and-a-half crores of people in one year. History records that more than 5,000 people were dying every day and the great city of Constantinople (present day Istanbul) was devastated. Emperor Justinian himself suffered from plague, but recovered miraculously. The decline of the Byzantine Empire started with this devastating plague. The plague reoccurred periodically later. Some estimates suggest that up to ten percent of the world's population died.

THE BLACK DEATH was a severe epidemic of Bubonic Plague which lasted for seven years from 1346 to1353 which ravaged Europe, Africa and Asia, with an estimated death toll of about twenty crores of people. It was thought to have originated in Asia and the Plague jumped continents via the fleas living on the rats that so frequently lived aboard merchant ships. Ports being major urban centres in those times were the perfect breeding ground for the rats and fleas, and thus the insidious bacterium flourished, devastating three continents in its wake. The number of dead being so large, the bodies of victims were buried in mass graves. The plague changed the course of Europe's history. With nearly half the population of the continent dead, labour became harder to find, and brought about better pay for workers and the end of Europe's system of serfdom. Probably black death was the biggest, most prolonged and the most devastating pandemic in human history.



Named after the Byzantine Emperor Justinian I, Justinian's Plague affected nearly half the population of Europe

THIRD CHOLERA PANDEMIC originated in India and lasted for eight years from 1852 to 1860, and took a death toll of more than ten lakhs of people. It spread from the Ganges River Delta through Asia, Europe, North America and Africa. British Physician John Snow, working in a poor area of London, tracked the cases of cholera and eventually identified contaminated water as the mode of transmission for the disease. In the year of his discovery in 1854, 23,000 people died in Great Britain from this pandemic of cholera.

FLU PANDEMIC between 1918 and 1920, a disturbingly deadly outbreak of influenza, tore across the globe, infecting over a third of the world's population. More than 50 crores of people were infected in the 1918 pandemic and the death rate was very high and about 2.5 crores died in the first 25 weeks alone. Influenza had always previously killed juveniles and the elderly or the already weakened patients. But this time it had begun striking down hardy and completely healthy young adults.

ASIAN FLU (1956-1958) was a pandemic outbreak of Influenza A of the H2N2 subtype, that originated in China in 1956 and lasted until 1958. In its two-year spree, Asian Flu travelled from the Chinese province of Guizhou to Singapore, Hong Kong, and the United States. The WHO places the final tally at approximately twenty lakhs deaths, 69,800 of those in the US alone. According to an article by Dr. I. G. K. Menon, Deputy Director, Pasteur Institute, Coonoor, India, Asian influenza appears to have reached India via Madras in May 1957. The main pandemic wave swept through the subcontinent within the next 12 weeks; cases occurring thereafter represent the permanent infiltration of the new virus into the population. Between May 19, 1957 and February 8, 1958 there were reported 44,51,758 cases, with 1,098 deaths. The disease, in India, seems generally to have run a mild course.

Recently my good friend and a very senior doctor of the city, Dr. J.K. Sunderaj was telling me about this epidemic in Mysore which started in1956. His father Dr. J.S. Krishna Murthy was a famous practitioner in those days. It seems that his father and his grandfather Dr. Subbaramaiah treated hundreds of these flu cases and there were no deaths.

HIV/AIDS PANDEMIC (at its peak 2005-2012). First identified in Democratic Republic of the Congo in 1976, HIV/AIDS has truly proven itself as a global pandemic, killing more than three- and-a-half crores of people since 1981. **Currently there are between 31 and 35 million people living with HIV, vast majority of those are in Sub-Saharan Africa, where 5 percent of population is infected. As awareness has grown and new treatments have been developed that make HIV far more manageable, many of those infected go on to lead productive lives. Between 2005 and 2012, the annual global deaths from HIV/AIDS dropped from twenty two lakhs to sixteen lakhs.**

These are only some of the many big epidemics the world has faced. In those times the poor lived in squalid conditions and there were few public health measures. Hence, those epidemics spread fast with a large human toll. **These pestilences were attributed to the ire of Gods.** Advances in public health and various branches of medical science have helped us to understand the nature of these great epidemics of the past. **The present Coronavirus pandemic demonstrates that, in spite of all the great scientific research and advances in medical science, humankind feels almost helpless in the face of nature's fury.**

Courtesy: Internet

Abracadabra... Abracadabra...

By K.B. Ganapathy

Musings on power of prayer and lighting of oil lamps !

One of the reasons why some people continue to break rules with impunity in this country is because few of them are called out or held accountable.

This has to end now. Criminal, reckless, irresponsible acts that endanger peoples lives need to be not only condemned but those responsible for such acts must be held accountable, irrespective of their religious or political affiliations.

— Javed M. Ansari, Senior Journalist and Political Analyst, formerly of *'India Today'* Group

When Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced that he would like his countrymen to switch off electric lights in their houses and light oil lamps, candles, torches or mobile phone lights at their doors and balconies on 5th April, Sunday, at 9 pm for 9 minutes (and pray or meditate) for combating the Coronavirus, the anti-Modi brigade laughed, mocked and made derisive remarks against Modi. They even attributed personal motives of Modi and BJP for making this request to our countrymen at a time when the very existence of mankind is threatened by this pandemic.

In the annals of history of mankind there was no time when man looked so helpless to face a pandemic like this one. Yet, this invisible, most lethal enemy has to be challenged. But, how? Despite much advance in the field of medical science, no one in the world could find a drug or vaccine as a cure. Which is why doctors and medical scientists say for now Social Distancing and Lockdown are the only ways to escape from this disease, COVID-19.

It is most abhorrent, abominable and sinister that in the name of religion some sections of our society are ignoring these guidelines and warnings. As a consequence these fanatics, bigots, are making the life of health workers — Doctors, Paramedicals, Nurses, Ward boys and others — serving the sick more difficult. Action against these anti-mankind fanatics under the criminal law of the land alone cannot stop them from their mischief. **Then what? Pray?**

Well, probably it is for this reason that Modi, after announcing the Lockdown till April 14, 2020 earlier (which was not observed by many Modi-baiters under our SECULAR LIBERAL DEMOCRACY), now announced this novel idea of getting the 130 crore people of our country to Pray (Modi did not use that word lest it must sound non-Secular and superstitious or even Hindu) by lighting the traditional lamps at the risk of being despised by the "Left, liberal intellectuals."

Poor Narendra Modi. No matter what he does, whether it is good for the people and the country or not good, either way he is damned. I am reminded of a short story by that famous Russian Author Anton Chekhov, very aptly, as if he knew that Modi in India would face this situation, titled ***"Oh! The Public."***

Let me give the gist of the story. Podtyagin was a Head Ticket Collector in the Russian Railways. The travelling public used to criticise him for not doing his work properly due to his drinking habit.

One day Podtyagin, realising his irresponsible and negligent conduct in his work, did some introspection and said to himself in a sort of soliloquy: "I am glad to get my salary, so I must do my work honestly, heartily, conscientiously, regardless of sleep or comfort. I should not take my work easy. Now I am taking salary for doing nothing. It is not right at all."

Wisdom seemed to dawn upon him and he got down to doing his work. As required, he woke up his subordinate Ticket Collectors and went with them up and down the Railway carriages, inspecting tickets from the passengers.

He saw a second-class passenger, lean and scraggy-looking person wrapped up in the blanket.

Podtyagin, the 'reformed' Head Ticket Collector called out, "Ticket, please" but this passenger did not reply.

The Head Ticket Collector then touched him on the shoulder and repeated 'Ticket please.'

The dirty-looking passenger was annoyed, he created a scene. Shouted loudly saying that he was sick and sleeping and yet, this Ticket Collector was harassing him etc.

He looked at the fellow passengers and said, "It is merciless, it is inhuman, it is cruel..."

Podtyagin was angry and told the passenger that he should stop shouting and stop disturbing the **Public.** Otherwise, he would remove him from the train and hand him over to the Police.

Here is the crux of the story. The **"Public"** reacted saying what Podtyagin was doing to that passenger was "revolting", "inhuman". He was "persecuting an invalid." And advised the Head Ticket Collector to "have some consideration." I thought of our "Lutyens' Club members in Delhi !"

Among the Public was an engineer and a military officer. Knowing the passenger was a drug addict, they criticised the Head Ticket Collector and insisted that he should apologise to that passenger !

When the Station Master who was brought in said, "Drop it," ordering not to take any action against that ticketless passenger, who openly said he had taken "a third dose of morphia," poor Podtyagin gave up and walked out of the carriage in despair with the following words:

"Oh, the Public! There is no satisfying them. It is no use working and doing one's best! ...If you do nothing, they are angry; if you do your duty, they are angry too."

Mercifully, in India today the real **"Public",** I mean the majority of the silent people, of all religions and walks of life, are with Modi. It is only a frustrated Opposition and Religious Fundamentalists who are unhappy with Modi.

Now let me ruminate on Prime Minister Modi's call to light lamps. What was that *Tamasha,* some pseudo-intellectuals and atheists rued. A **prayer** invocation to God to give us **strength** to overcome the COVID-19 or an **idea** to **unite** 130 crore people of this country, cutting across religious barrier, in a show of solidarity to fight this COVID-19 unitedly?

I lighted an oil lamp with wick and held it in my hand for 9-10 minutes closing my eyes in mediation or prayer — I do not know. But my inner voice said, "God save India. God save the World."

This indeed is our summer of discontent. When there are no medicines or cure for our present fatal COVID-19 disease, what is our next hope? Yes, **Social Distancing. Lockdown.** But how long? Here in comes the prayer.

But as Hamlet asks in Shakespeare's play *Hamlet:* "But oh, what form of prayer can serve my turn?"

As for me, one form is what Modi asked us to do on 5th Sunday, April 2020, at night.

I guess, when everything fails our hope is in prayers. Again, which is why Hamlet exclaims:

"There are more things in heaven and earth Horatio than dreamt of in your philosophy."

The philosophy of Modi-baiters.

So saying, Hamlet concludes that human knowledge is limited. And so pray! After all, prayer is also a form of requesting of good things from God !!

God may grant the request or may not. However, one request He will never grant is saving one from Death !

Be that as it may, God seems compassionate, merciful, kind and condescending to our prayers. Ask the Mughal Emperor Babur. History records that Babur's eldest son Humayun had been designated as his heir. Humayun was sent to Afghanistan on a military campaign. When he received the news about Babur's failing health, he returned to India in 1529.

Surprisingly, Humayun suddenly fell seriously sick and appeared to die soon. Distraught, his father Babur sat in prayer by his son's sick-bed and began to pray. He prayed that he would forfeit his own life for Humayun's recovery. In fact he made a deal with God. Remember, that he made a similar deal with God, when he went to war with Rajputs at Khanua, that he would not drink alcohol and would kill Rajput infidels in the war he designated as *Jihad.* He had won the war.

Apparently, he knew the power of prayer. What was important was that once again Babur's piety, prayer, was rewarded. Humayun came out of his death-bed, but Babur died.

It could be, Modi was inspired by Gandhiji who said life will persist in spite of death and light will persist despite darkness. So by lighting the lamps, Modi wants to dispel this COVID-19 darkness encompassing our country and the world.

Why not give him the benefit of doubt for his belief and to all those, like me, who believe in Modi's harmless, no-cost idea about lighting a lamp.

Jai Hind.

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Mysore Citizens Forum to distribute 3,000 grocery boxes to poor families in city

To provide more if lockdown is extended

Mysuru, Apr. 7 (PM&KS)- Extending a helping hand at the time of distress, Mysore Citizens Forum (MCF), which had provided relief materials at the time of natural disaster earlier, will be distributing 3,000 grocery boxes worth Rs. 12.5 lakh to poor families in city.

To prevent people from crowding any particular place of distribution, MCC will be distributing the grocery boxes to the doorstep of poor families identified by it.

The distribution process was launched symbolically at JSS School in Raghavendranagar here this morning.

On the occasion, Suttur Seer Sri Shivarathri Deshikendra Swamiji, who is the President of the Forum, distributed the grocery boxes to more than 20 families in the presence of Deputy Commissioner Abhiram G. Sankar, Mayor Tasneem, Mysuru City Corporation (MCC) Commissioner Gurudatta Hegde, Deputy Mayor C. Sridhar, MCF Secretary R. Vasudeva Bhat, Members P.V. Giri, Jagadish, Dr. R. Balasubramanyam, JSS Mahavidyapeetha Executive Secretary Dr. C.G. Betsurmath and others.

Suttur Seer Sri Shivarathri Deshikendra Swamiji, DC Abhiram G. Sankar and Mayor Tasneem giving away grocery box to one of the beneficiary at JSS School in Raghavendranagar this morning.

Each grocery box contains 5kg rice, 1kg dal, 1kg sugar, 1kg salt, 250 gram tea powder and 500ml cooking oil.

Speaking on the occasion, Suttur Seer said that the whole country is under lockdown to prevent the spread of Coronavirus and added that the lockdown has given positive results.

The Seer further said that the first positive case person is on the verge of recovering which is a good news.

Continuing, Suttur Seer said that the lockdown has rendered several daily wagers and labourers without jobs who are now struggling for food and hence, the MCF has come forward to provide 3,000 grocery boxes to those families identified by the MCC.

Cops remind people on social distancing: As a large crowd gathered at the School to collect grocery boxes, the Police had to remind the people about maintaining social distancing following which it was followed.

'Set up COVID-19 Hospital at Dasara Expo Ground'

Suggests ex-KEA Chief Raghu Kautilya

Mysuru, Apr. 7- Even as the health authorities, in a swift move, have converted the New District Hospital on KRS Road as District COVID-19 Hospital, BJP leader and former Chairman of Exhibition Authority Raghu Kautilya has suggested the District Administration to set up a temporary COVID-19 Hospital with quarantine facility at the sprawling Dasara Expo Ground.

In an appeal to the District Administration, Raghu said that Mysuru has the most number of Coronavirus cases in the State after Bengaluru. Also, many people are under quarantine in the district and as such, the District Administration must consider the idea of establishing a temporary COVID-19 Care Hospital at the 80-acre Dasara Exhibition Ground which is at a safe distance from residential areas.

Maintaining that the Exhibition Ground is an ideal place for the setting up of a temporary hospital, he said that the venue also provides a conducive atmosphere for treating the infected.

He opined that the authorities must discuss the pros and cons of the idea and come up with a plan in this regard.

New District Hospital Doctors get uninterrupted food supplies

Mysuru, Apr. 7 (PM&DM)- With the New District Hospital on KRS Road converted into a COVID-19 Care Hospital, some good Samaritans of the city have ensured that the Doctors of the Hospital, who are striving hard round the clock taking care of the patients, get timely food on a regular basis.

Dr. Dilip of Mysore Rotary Zone-8, who himself is a Doctor, has taken the initiative of supplying safe food to all the Doctors serving at the New District Hospital, which has a 150-bed COVID-19 Care and Quarantine facility.

Dr. Dilip, taking the help of all Rotary Clubs in the city, has launched the initiative of supplying breakfast, lunch and dinner to about 200 Doctors at the Hospital who work in shifts. He is supported by Rotary Assistant Governor Subbu Roy.

The breakfast menu includes Idli-vada, Dosa, Kharabath, Bisibelebath etc., while the lunch menu includes Rice and Sambar, Chapathi, Poori, Ragi Roti, Rice Roti, Curds etc., and the dinner menu includes Palav, Veg Biryani, Rice etc., while a breakfast costs Rs.70, every parcel of meal costs about Rs.100.

Speaking to *SOM,* Dr. Dilip said that a total of 200 Doctors who work in shifts and batches are supplied breakfast and meals daily. This catering service started from Apr.1 and will continue till the end of this month.

Pointing out that Rotary Mysore, taking into consideration the service of Doctors who are working round the clock at the Hospital risking their lives, launched this novel initiative of supplying food to them.

"I, myself being a Doctor, know the responsibilities and duties of Doctors in difficult and trying times such as this one, where COVID-19 pandemic is creating havoc across the globe. I have launched this selfless initiative to supply food to the Doctors of the Hospital who are working round the clock," he said and added that safety and hygiene is given utmost priority in food supplies.

COVID-19: Nations queue up to ask India to send them Hydroxychloroquine

New Delhi, Apr. 7 (Agencies)- Despite India banning all exports of hydroxychloroquine, a malaria drug that United States President Donald Trump has repeatedly touted as a "game-changer" in the fight against COVID-19, several world leaders including Trump have reached to Prime Minister Narendra Modi for the supply of the medicine.

US President Donald Trump said he has requested Modi to supply hydroxychloroquine tablets that can be used to treat COVID-19 patients in his country, which now has the highest number of cases in the world.

Brazilian President Bolsonaro also tweeted in Portuguese about his discussion with the PM, saying he requested the latter for support in the continuity of the supply of pharmaceutical inputs for the production of hydroxychloroquine.

Members of the SAARC bloc and Indonesia and the UAE have requested India to lift the export ban on hydroxychloroquine, as they stare at a shortage of the drug primarily used for rheumatoid arthritis and long-term autoimmune disease lupus. According to reports, several other European countries have also requested India for the supply of hydroxychloroquine.

In the last few days, PM Modi has held a series of telephonic conversations over the COVID-19 pandemic with several world leaders, including Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, German Chancellor Angela Merkel, UK's Prince Charles, French President Emmanuel Macron and Kuwaiti Prime Minister Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah.

India's Directorate General of Foreign Trade on March 25 banned the export of Hydroxychloroquine but said that certain shipments on humanitarian grounds may be allowed on a case-by-case basis.

Based on some initial results, the Trump administration is banking heavily on using Hydroxychloroquine for the successful treatment of Coronavirus. Two days after the US President's tweet, the Indian Council of Medical Research on March 23 recommended that the drug be reserved in India only for healthcare workers, and persons caring for COVID-19 patients in households.

Can we feel good in a hospital?

Point of VIEW

T.J.S. George

So, a mere virus is enough to bring humanity on its knees. The phrase "mere virus" may be an understatement in the present context, for corona has not only changed everybody's lifestyle but is changing also the way society functions. **Life is teaching us that an invisible invader, ten-thousandth of a millimetre in diameter, can turn us into helpless nobodies.** Even hospitals are not safe havens as I realised in the last two weeks.

I happened to be in a hospital when the corona crisis unravelled and lockdown became the way of life. I was not a patient, but attender to a patient. Naidu Memorial was an excellent hospital with excellent facilities and the patient could not have wished for a more competent medical team to take care of her. But it was a hospital. **The world inside a hospital is a different kind of world. While it gives you refuge, it also reminds you that you are fundamentally helpless.**

Even in the best of hospitals that sentiment prevails. The patient I was attending had a good room with all facilities, from television to airconditioning. The verandah outside was spacious — which mattered because that was often my refuge when nurses went inside to attend to the patient for a variety of reasons.

It was the team of nurses that made the real difference. They were a bunch of young girls. It was very clear that they were professionally well trained. But it was their human nature that made them special. When the monotony of the bed made the patient bored, when things like undulating mattresses and inflated mattresses made her feel strange, the ever-smiling nurses made all the discomfort go away. It was a good time to remember the saying: "Save one life, you are a hero. Save a hundred lives, you are a nurse."

The care and attention you get in a hospital may sometimes seem too much. From dawn to midnight, they come in to take blood pressure, blood samples and various other counts with various kinds of instruments. Not a moment passes without your feeling that you are in a hospital. Add to it the scientifically bland nature of hospital food. It's clinically the ideal nourishment for the patient, but the patient needs to do some jugglery with her taste buds in order to enjoy it. Not impossible, but an effort has to be made.

Doctors understand such inevitabilities. That must be one reason they recommend discharge from hospitals as soon as possible. Our doctor kept reminding us that hospital air was best avoided. I saw the reason the day our patient was shifted from hospital to home. Magically, as it were, her condition improved. No doubt psychology was an active factor. After all, home is home and its therapeutic effect is without parallel.

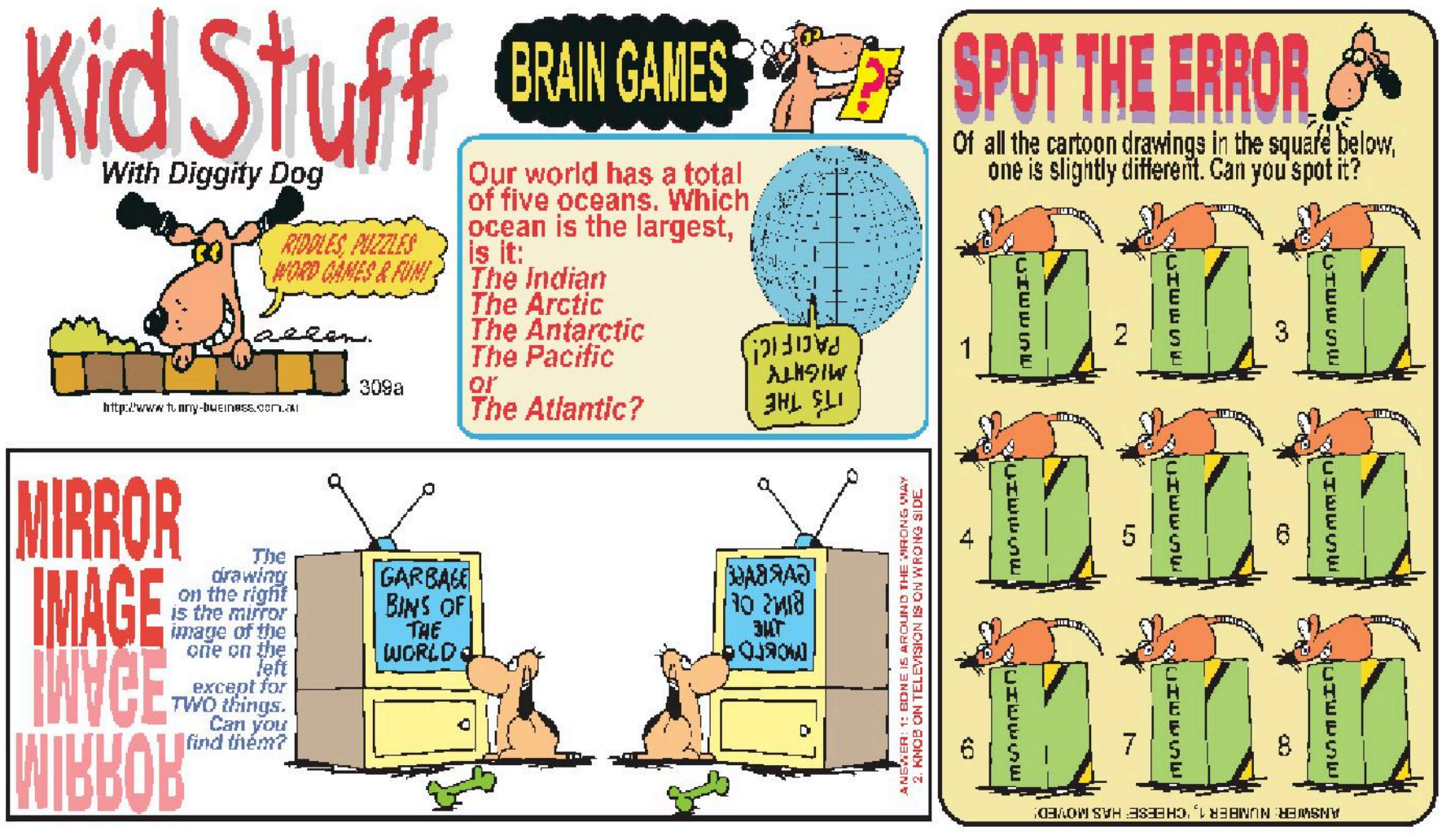
These days the easy availability of home nursing services is an incentive for patients to prefer home. But beware. These services may not be what you expect. Based on recommendations, we engaged one company and they sent a nurse home the same evening with the understanding that she would stay in the house and avoid daily commuting because of corona-virus implications. She was pleasant when she arrived. Within a few hours, however, her mood changed.

> **"When the monotony of the bed made the patient bored, when things like undulating mattresses and inflated mattresses made her feel strange, the ever-smiling nurses made all the discomfort go away. It was a good time to remember the saying: "Save one life, you are a hero. Save a hundred lives, you are a nurse."**

She seemed to remember rather suddenly that she was two days into her periods and that she would be better off with her mother. Off she went.

The experience made me aware of the horrendous inadequacies of our public health system. It is now known that we do not even have the facilities — or the policy awareness — to carry out testing. According to the Indian Council of Medical Research, only 2,000 tests were conducted in the first two days of the lockdown. This rose to nearly 35,000 in the next few days, but what is that number in a country of 1,387,297,452 people (as of January 1, 2020).

The sudden and unplanned nature of the lockdown made things worse with hundreds of thousands of people rendered jobless. The way they trekked home and crowded into the bus stations in Delhi could only have expanded the scope of the corona catastrophe. How will people cope with a danger they are unfamiliar with? Which way can they turn? When I look at the larger picture, the challenges I faced with one sick person in the family seem minor. In the south of India, we are better off with a quality of life — and services — that separates the south from the rest of India. Gracias.


Kid Stuff
With Diggity Dog
RIDDLES, PUZZLES WORD GAMES & FUN!
309a
http://www.funny-business.com.au
BRAIN GAMES
Our world has a total of five oceans. Which ocean is the largest, is it:
The Indian
The Arctic
The Antarctic
The Pacific
or
The Atlantic?
IT'S THE MIGHTY PACIFIC!
SPOT THE ERROR
Of all the cartoon drawings in the square below, one is slightly different. Can you spot it?
CHEESE
1
2
3
4
5
6
6
7
8
ANSWER: NUMBER 1, 'CHEESE' HAS MOVED!
MIRROR IMAGE
The drawing on the right is the mirror image of the one on the left except for TWO things. Can you find them?
GARBAGE BINS OF THE WORLD
ANSWER: 1: BONE IS AROUND THE WRONG WAY
2. KNOB ON TELEVISION IS ON WRONG SIDE

Noted Kannada comedian Bullet Prakash dies at 44

Bullet Prakash

Bengaluru, Apr. 7- Noted Sandalwood actor, comedian Bullet Prakash (44) passed away after a brief illness at a private hospital here last evening.

Diagnosed with liver and kidney complications, Prakash was admitted to Fortis Hospitals on Cunningham Road on March 31.

According to sources at the hospital, he was being treated for an infection in the liver and kidney. "He was put on dialysis to stabilise his condition. A team of gastroenterologists, nephrologists, transplant surgeons was treating him," an official from the hospital said. Further, on Monday morning due to worsening conditions, he was put on the ventilator.

However, at around 4.45 pm, Prakash breathed his last due to multiple organs failure, according to the doctors.

He is survived by his wife, a daughter and a son.

The actor earned the moniker 'Bullet' for his penchant for riding a Royal Enfield Bullet motorbike.

Known for his unique mannerism in Kannada cinema, Prakash had a large fan following for his comedy roles. He had appeared in over 300 films in his career including in 'Mast Maja Maadi' (2008), 'Aithalakkadi' (2010), 'Mallikarjuna' (2011) and 'Aryan' (2014). He made his debut in the movie 'Dhruva' released in 2002 and had acted alongside stars including Darshan, Puneet Rajkumar and Upendra. Prakash was close to *Challenging Star* Darshan Thoogudeepa and yet another comedian Sadhu Kokila.

Bullet Prakash was also an aspiring political leader and joined Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) in 2015.

He had taken part in the famous TV Show Bigg Boss season-2. Bullet Prakash had undergone weight reduction surgery two years ago.

Transgenders given kits containing essential items

Mysuru, Apr. 7 (MTY&DM)- Even as most of the transgenders of the city, who eke out a living by begging alms, are facing a lot of difficulties owing to the COVID-19 lockdown, a young lady architect of the city has drawn public attention by donating kits containing 14 essential items to transgenders.

While most transgenders sought alms from the public twice a week — Tuesday and Friday — some others became sex workers for their livelihood. But their trouble began when the Prime Minister called for Janata Curfew on Mar. 22, followed by the announcement of a nationwide lockdown till Apr.14, as the city came to a standstill with all shops and commercial establishments shut.

Taking note of the hardships of the transgenders, S.V. Vatsala, a young Architect of B.M. Shri Nagar, launched a social media campaign called 'Mysuru stands with transgenders,' with many citizens supporting her initiative.

She also started an initiative called 'Nimagallada Jagattu,' (the world is not for you) which received good response from the citizens, with many of them donating liberally for the cause.

Vatsala, with her own money and the contributions made by the public, distributed kits containing 14 food items including rice to 80 transgenders.

Each kit contains 5 kg of rice,1kg dal, 500 grams channa, 3kg sugar, 200 grams coffee/tea powder,1kg edible oil, 500 grams sooji, 500 grams green gram,1 kg salt, 500 grams groundnut, 500 grams of green peas, 500 grams tur dal, 500 grams green dal and 2kg of atta.

Speaking to *Star of Mysore*, Vatsala said that most transgenders are battling for survival as they have no source of income due to the lockdown.

Noting that transgenders eked out a living either by begging alms or working as sex workers, she said that she thought of coming to their rescue at this difficult times and started a social media campaign, which received good response, with several citizens donating generously.

She purchased the kits out of the collected funds and distributed them to 80 transgenders, she said and added that at the same time she is advocating the need for maintaining social distancing at this crucial hour in the battle against the deadly Novel Coronavirus.

Food for the shelterless

Social Worker Shafiq Ahmed, along with City Congress President R. Murthy and former Corporator Shivanna, distributed food for nearly 300 shelterless people housed at Nanjaraja Bahadur Choultry and Youth Hostel in city yesterday.

Liquor thief arrested

Bettadapura, Apr. 7 (Rajesh& KS)- Bettadapura Police have arrested a 21-year-old man on charges of breaking open a window of a Bar and Restaurant and decamping with liquor bottles worth Rs.60,000. The Cops have recovered the stolen liquor bottles from him.

The arrested is Basavaraju, a driver by profession and a resident of Chapparadahalli in Periyapatna taluk.

The accused had gained entry into Chamundeshwari Bar and Restaurant at Chapparadahalli by breaking open a window and had decamped with Rs. 60,000 worth liquor bottles.

Circle Inspector B.R. Pradeep supervised Bettadapura Sub-Inspector P. Lokesh, ASI Nataraju and staff M.U. Dileep, Ravish, Prasanna Kumar, A. Kumar, Bhaskar, G.S. Raghu, Ganesh, Shekar, Harish, Manjunath and Swamy in the nabbing and recovery operation.

Women reach out to stray dogs during lockdown

Provide food, water to more than 150 strays daily

Neha Naina and Gayathridevi seen feeding stray dogs and puppies in city.

Mysuru, Apr. 7 (MTY&KS)- To prevent the spread of Coronavirus, the entire nation has come under lockdown following the Union Government's order from Mar. 24 midnight till the midnight of Apr.14, which has resulted in hotels, restaurants, fast-food joints, roadside eateries and bakeries closing down.

These places were the source of food for stray dogs which are now suffering from hunger and some of them dying.

Noting this, many animal-lovers have come forward to feed these animals. Similarly, two women — Hinkal Gram Panchayat Member Neha Naina and Gayathridevi of Vijayanagar — displaying their concern towards the stray dogs, are providing food and water to over 150 stray dogs every day.

Neha and Gayathridevi are now preparing 5 kg rice mixed with eggs, six litres milk and more than one kg of dog food, carry the prepared food in large container and are feeding the stray dogs twice a day at Vijayanagar 1st , 2nd and 4th Stages, Ring Road, Bogadi, Hinkal, KRS Road, Hootagalli Road and other places.

Inspired by these women who travelling around and feeding stray dogs, a few residents are now feeding strays in front of their houses.

Speaking to *SOM*, Neha said that they were voluntarily feeding the stray dogs without seeking any help from NGOs and added that they would continue feeding strays till they can.

Continuing, Neha said that for about five days she fed the strays alone and Gayathridevi, who saw her feeding, joined hands with her and they both are now feeding the dogs.

She further said that they are not financially sound to cater to the needs of all stray animals in city and urged the residents to feed stray dogs in their locality by placing food in a disposable plate in front of their houses as these stray animals could not express their hunger like human beings.

WORD OF THE DAY

Forsooth

Pronunciation: fer-SOOTH.

Meaning: In truth : indeed — often used to imply contempt or doubt.
Origin: Forsooth sounds like a dated word, but it is still part of modern English; it is primarily used in humorous or ironic contexts, or in a manner intended to play off the word's archaic vibe. Forsooth was formed from the combination of the preposition for and the noun sooth. Sooth survives as both a noun (meaning "truth" or "reality") and an adjective (meaning "true," "sweet," or "soft"), though it is rarely used by contemporary speakers and writers. It primarily lives on in the verb soothe (which originally meant "to show, assert, or confirm the truth of") and in the noun soothsayer (that is, "truthsayer"), a name for someone who can predict the future.
Example: "For sure and forsooth, that means savings for you, dear Renaissance-loving reveler, if you purchase your entry to the weekend-whimsical Irwindale festival by Jan. 6, 2020." —NBCLosAngeles.com, 26 Dec. 2019

THE ODD WORD

Fanfaronade

Grandiose trumpet blast.

PHRASE OF THE DAY

Failing to plan is planning to fail

Meaning: Literal meaning.
Origin: This modern-day proverb is widely attributed to Alan Lakein, the writer of several self-help books on time management from the 1970s onward. The quotation is certainly in the gung-ho, up and at 'em style of Lakein's and he may well have coined it. One can't find the source of the quotation in his published work, so 'attributed to' is the best one can do for now. If Lakein did coin the expression, he must have done it before 1979, when it appeared in print in an article by Ron Watmough, in the Small Business section of the Canadian newspaper The Lethbridge Herald, May 1979.

QUOTE BOX

Only those who dare to fail greatly can ever achieve greatly.

— Robert F. Kennedy

RIDDLE THIS

What question can you never answer yes to?

Answer: Are you asleep yet?

SUDOKU

	3		9				8	
		9	4			3		7
			8			2		
				2		5		
	9						4	
		1		5				
		6			1			
3		4			7	1		
	2				3		6	

Answer to previous puzzle

2	3	6	8	5	9	4	1	7
1	9	5	6	7	4	2	3	8
8	7	4	3	2	1	5	6	9
5	8	1	4	9	7	3	2	6
6	4	9	1	3	2	8	7	5
3	2	7	5	6	8	9	4	1
4	5	8	2	1	6	7	9	3
9	1	2	7	8	3	6	5	4
7	6	3	9	4	5	1	8	2

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Concept is Sudoku increases from Monday to Sunday.

CROSS WORD

ACROSS:

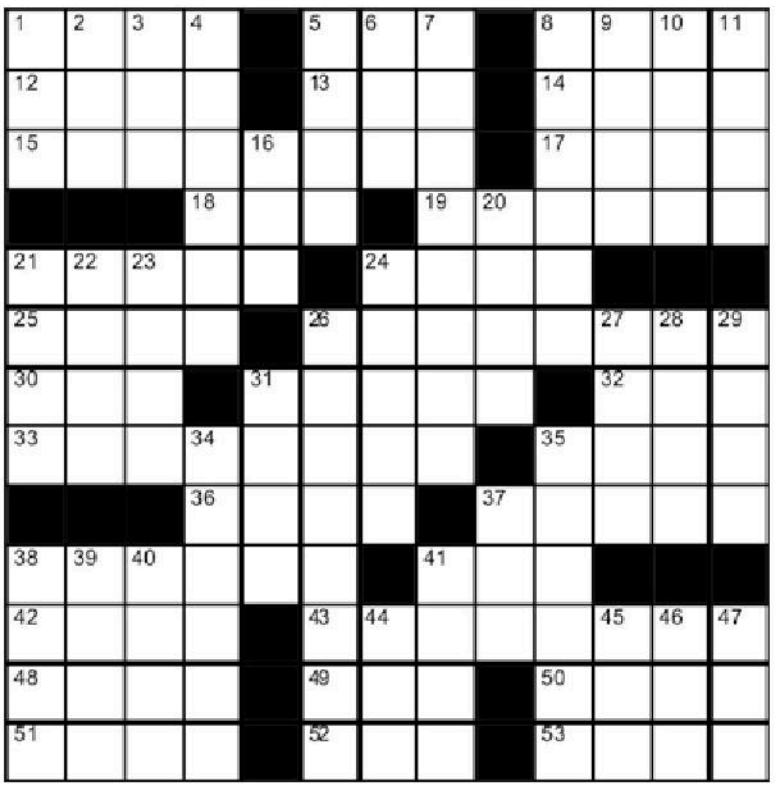
1 Prod or spur into action
5 And so on abbr.
8 Small round portion of liquid, of dew for one?
12 Verdi's Egyptian opera
13 __ Francisco : river of Brazil?
14 Scottish island
15 A precious metal
17 Let it stand!
18 Solid water
19 Documents or manuscripts
21 Bollywood's Denzongpa
24 Rahu Aur __
25 Eager, wide-eyed
26 Thoroughly wet
30 Cigarette
31 Prototype or facsimile
32 Communist, colloquially speaking
33 Annoyed, harassed or hassled
35 Thigh muscle in short
36 Poker holding
37 Card game
38 Among, in the company of
41 Prefix - as in ___logy or ___nomy?
42 An unconscious state
43 German shepherd
48 Absorbed in one's work, perhaps
49 Tear or split open
50 You too in Latin (2,2)
51 Being in Latin
52 Currency of Japan
53 One from Belgrade

YESTERDAY'S ANSWER

O	P	S	■	K	U	S	H	■	T	R	I	P
S	U	P	■	A	N	N	O	■	R	E	N	I
S	P	O	O	N	F	E	D	■	E	A	S	T
■	■	U	N	T	I	E	■	P	E	R	T	H
G	A	T	E	■	T	R	I	E	D	■	■	■
A	G	I	N	G	■	S	R	O	■	O	D	A
G	A	N	D	H	I	■	K	N	I	V	E	S
A	R	G	■	O	E	D	■	S	T	E	L	E
■	■	■	C	U	R	I	A	■	A	R	I	A
S	T	O	O	L	■	S	P	I	L	T	■	■
G	U	R	U	■	I	M	P	L	Y	I	N	G
T	B	A	R	■	B	A	A	L	■	M	O	I
S	E	N	T	■	A	L	L	S	■	E	R	G

DOWN

1 Breach or hiatus
2 Olive extract, perhaps
3 Old time movie Anokhi ___
4 Going steady
5 Labourer of yore
6 Greek letter
7 Disputed, strove or struggled?
8 Capital of Assam
9 Memory alone
10 Unique or singular person
11 Strikes lightly
16 Very cold
20 Ex-Delhi paceman Wasan
21 Nutty or crazy
22 Laboratory gel
23 Slang usage meaning, "nothing doing"? (2,2)
24 Character actor __ Khan
26 Lonesome, singular or unaccompanied
27 Hooded plant?
28 Eleven players make this up in cricket or football
29 A small, whirlpool which sounds like a boy!
31 IIM grads.
34 Modernise
35 States price of or charges for
37 Record company ___ Victor
38 A measure of land
39 Extinct flightless birds
40 Little devils!
41 Sports channel
44 An inaccurate or false statement
45 Suffix denoting native or inhabitant
46 Air Transp. Radio
47 A small lump of coal



CRYPTOQUIP

The Cryptoquip is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that X equals O, it will equal O throughout the puzzle. Single letters, short words and Words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.

ZNYLY FC KXGS KXY IPS ZK NPVVFXYCC PXR ZNPZ FC ZK HYPCY

IKLLSFXW PMKEZ ZNFXWC INFHN PLY MYSKXR ZNY VKIYL KB KEL IFGG.

TODAY'S CLUE: W EQUALS G

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: There's always somebody who is paid too much, and taxed too little - and it's always somebody else.

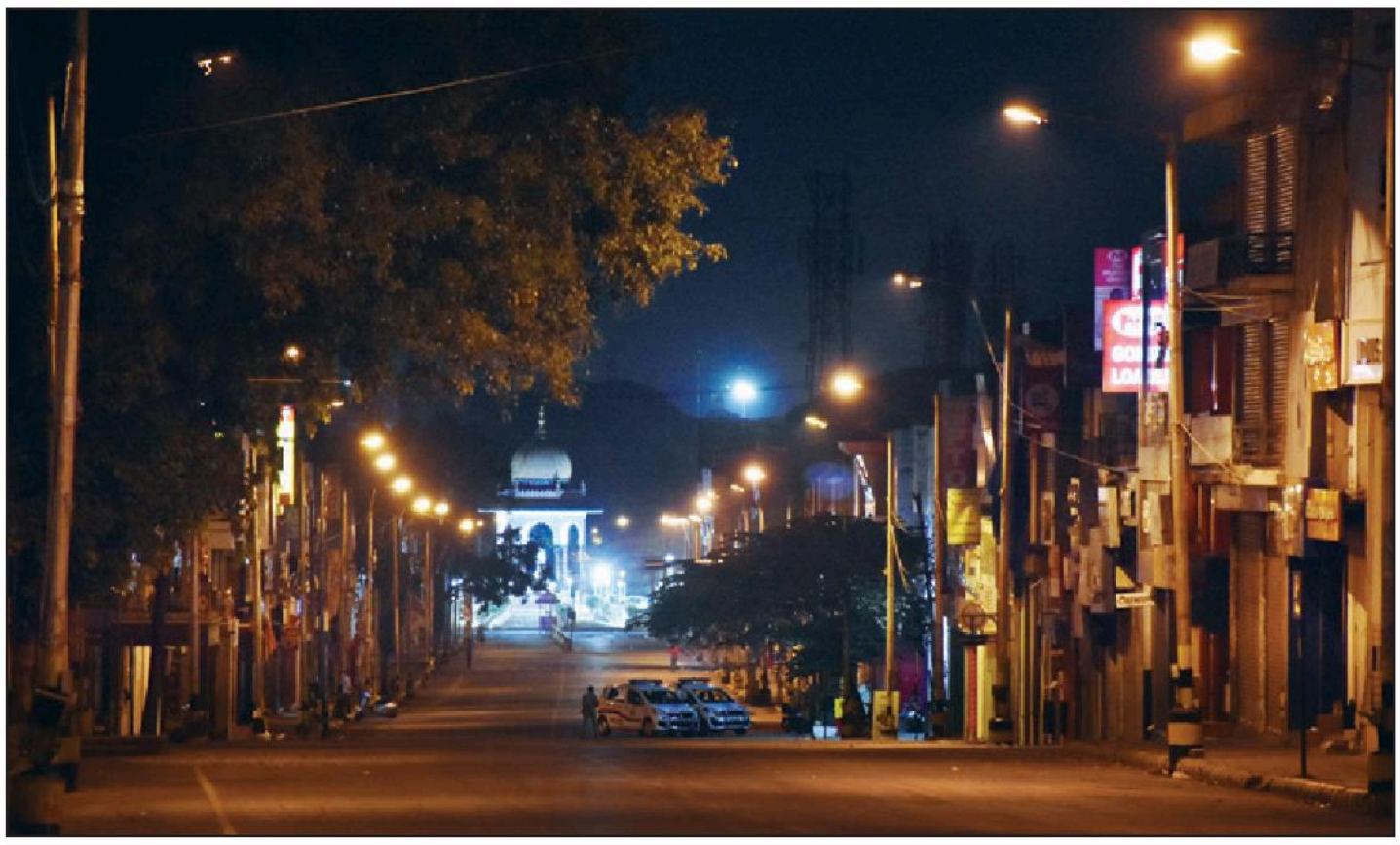
Ever seen city roads this deserted?

Well, COVID-19 has achieved the unthinkable

The scare of Coronavirus has impacted almost all aspects of life and unprecedented things are happening all around. Rumours have taken a toll on our minds. The total lockdown imposed by PM Narendra Modi to combat the deadly Coronavirus has certainly brought some relief to nature itself. Reports are coming from across the country about how rare and endangered species are seen in cities and how the pollution levels have drastically come down due to absolute lack of human activity and traffic. The ever-crowded roads of Mysuru wears a deserted look in the day and even in the nights, they resemble a deserted city where it looks like people might have forgotten to switch off the lights before they left.

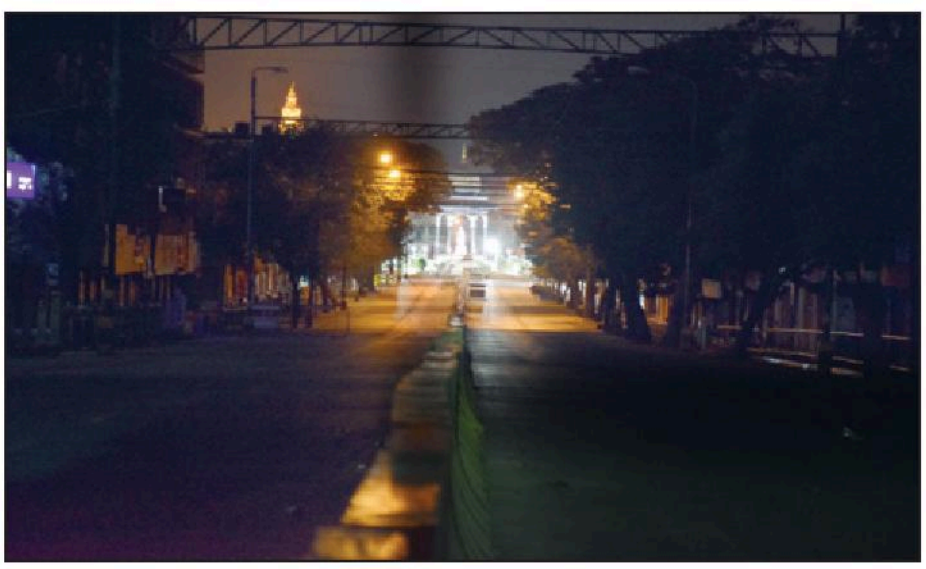
Except for a handful of Police vehicles with flickering lights, no other vehicle is seen on the roads even in the Central Business District.

See how the roads look during a lockdown night from the lens of *Star of Mysore* Photographer M.N. Lakshminarayana Yadav...

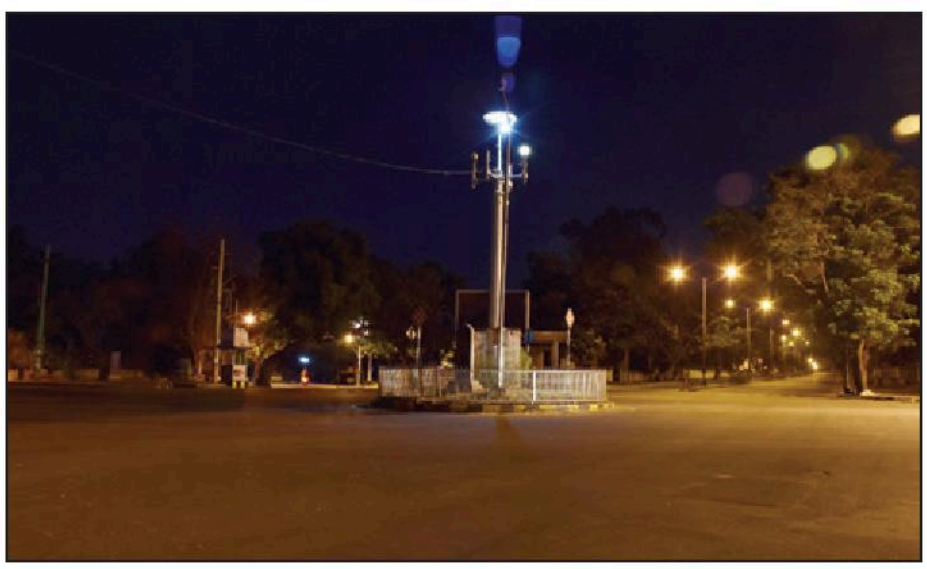


D. DEVARAJA URS ROAD: ***Except for two Police patrol vehicles, this is how the commercial hub of Mysuru, D. Devaraja Urs Road (facing K.R. Circle), looks now moments after the sunset. Ironically, only a glow board of a gold loan company is seen bright and clear. This commercial hub that is already bogged down by a parking mess might take months to recover from COVID-19 shock.***

DHANVANTRI ROAD: ***A stray dog and three people who seem to be lost or wanting something are seen on Dhanvantri Road, a hub for purchasers of critical care medicines. The crucial road that connects Devaraja Market with Sayyaji Rao Road is usually bustling with traffic.***



SAYYAJI RAO ROAD: ***A barricaded Sayyaji Rao Road as seen through the lenses from Govt. Ayurveda Hospital Circle. Mysuru's economy is driven north by this road and now it is haunted by an invisible microorganism with killer instincts.***



RAMASWAMY CIRCLE: ***A lone scooterist, probably a night duty Policeman moves like a king on the road near Ramaswamy Circle. Always a place of activities, the stretch looks like it is in unearthly hour even at 7.30 pm when the photo was clicked.***

COVID-19 awareness campaign vehicles launched

Mysuru, Apr. 7 (PM&DM)- Joining the ongoing efforts to fight the deadly Novel Coronavirus, the District Legal Services Authority (DLSA), in association with the city's Human Rights Organisation, launched COVID-19 awareness campaign vehicles yesterday.

Principal District and Sessions Court Judge Suresh K. Vontigodi flagged off the vehicles at the City Law Courts premises here.

Speaking on the occasion, Judge Vontigodi said that the Human Rights Organisation has engaged in carrying out COVID-19 awareness campaigns in all districts of the State through vehicles such as autorickshaws and cars and on Monday, this initiative has been launched in Mysuru district.

Calling upon the people to follow the Government's instructions and messages of the Organisation, he said that he was thanking the Organisation for its service on behalf of DLSA. He wished the Organisation all success in this noble endeavour.

A total of ten vehicles, including six autos and four cars, will travel across the district till Apr.14.

Senior Civil Judge Sunil A. Shettar, Mysuru Bar Association Secretary Shivanna, Human Rights Organisation office-bearers V. Nirmala, Sairaju and others were present.

Expect heavy rains today and tomorrow

Mysuru, Apr. 7 (MTY&DM)- Even as the city witnessed good rainfall late night on Sunday and Monday, the Agricultural Research Station at Naganahalli near here, has predicted heavy rainfall accompanied by winds and thunderstorms today and tomorrow (Apr. 7 and 8).

The Station recorded 12 mm rainfall on an average across the city on Sunday midnight and a much higher rainfall of 22.5 mm on Monday midnight.

Maintaining that the rainfall is a seasonal one and is conducive for farming, the Station's Senior Field Superintendent C. Prakash said that the rains are welcomed by farmers as they can take up agricultural activities such as sowing.

More rains are predicted on Tuesday and Wednesday, he said and added that the rainfall is a welcome relief for the people who were reeling under the scorching sun.

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COVID - 19 UPDATE

MYSURU

Persons observed till date	:	2,902
Persons isolated in home for 14 days	:	1,334
Persons isolated in hospital	:	35
Persons completed 14-days isolation	:	1,533
Total samples tested	:	287
Samples found negative	:	174
Total positive cases	:	35
Death toll so far in Mysuru	:	0

STATE & NATION

Total positive cases in Karnataka	:	175
Death toll so far in Karnataka	:	4
Total positive cases in India	:	4,600
Death toll so far in India	:	145

(NOTE: FIGURES TILL 2 PM)

COVID-19 District Emergency Control Room

The Mysuru District Emergency Control Room for COVID-19 (Coronavirus) is functional 24x7 and has a team of operators and medical professionals who are working in shifts. All related queries will be handled professionally and necessary guidance will be provided to all callers, according to Mysuru DC.

Mysuru Helpline numbers
1077 or 0821-2423800
Karnataka Helpline number: 104
Central Helpline number:
011-23978046
Email: ncov2019@gmail.com

STAR OF MYSORE

EMERGENCY AND ESSENTIAL SERVICES HELPLINE

Grocery Delivery

Loyal World
: 91699-94422
: 99802-00466

Mohan Bhandar
: 96062-33244
: 96062-33433
Ph: 0821-2442190

A 2 Z Supermarket
Ph: 0821-2547902
M: 94805-59879

More Mega Store N.S. Road
M: 81519-16000

More Supermarket Kalidasa Road
M: 97418-12959

Sri Vasavamba Stores,
M: 98447-95604
M: 98448-20833

Organic Health Mart
No:464, 1st floor, 6th main road, Vijaynagar 1st stage,
M: 99458-90309
81472-93582
99026-20309

Big Bazaar Chamarajapuram
M: 99941-606169

Ideal Aqua Mineral Water Plant
M: 98441-63411

Food Delivery

Hotel Siddharta, Nazarbad
M: 98802-32055

Indra's Sweet n Spice, Kalidasa Road
M: 99008-55447

Deliverfood2me.in, Yadavagiri
M: 96209-00000
Visit: deliverfood2me.in

Rasoai Magic, Kalidasa Road
Ph: 0821-4252228
M: 99688-15150

Jalpaan Restaurant
#366, 2nd floor, JLB Road
M: 87224-41234
87229-91234

Om Shanthi (Hotel Siddharta), South Indian
Ph: 0821-2522888
M: 78990-88444

Gonguras Restaurant, MG Road
M: 99800-60129

Crumbs (King's Kourt), JLB Road
M: 96202-02525

Bombay Tiffanys Annexe, DD Urs Road
M: 98451-27511
Vishnu Bhavan, Shakthinagar
M: 90192-09020

Sandesh The Prince
Ph: 0821-2436777
M: 93530-26508

Pharmacies

Raghulal & Co., Sayyaji Rao Road
Mob: 98451-07907

Sri Kumar Medicals, Kuvempunagar
M: 97418-80668

Kumar Medicals, Kuvempunagar
M: 94487-74372

Sri Murugan Medicals, Saraswathipuram
M: 99456-60084

Shreyas Medicals, Hebbal
M: 99006-29306

Adri Health Mart, Dattagalli
M: 99802-53762

Srinivasa Medicals, Shivarampet
M: 99458-04995

Venkateshwara Medicals, DD Urs Road
M: 98866-99552

Vasavi Medicals, 100 ft Road
M: 98451-14922

Aditya Medicals, Vijayanagar
M: 90088-03251

Pradhan Mantri Jan Aushda Kendra
26/3, Hebbal Main Road, next to HDFC Bank ATM, Lokanayaka Nagar, Metagalli, Mysuru.
M: 9343983533.

Ayush Pharma
 # 453 A, Chavadi Street, M.G Road, Agrahara, Near Mobile Palace
M / : 98868-73759, 97404-45002, 99869-47428
Ph : 0821-4194003

Hospitals

Apollo BGS Hospital, Kuvempunagar
Ph: 0821-2566666
0821-2568888

Columbia Asia Bengaluru-Mysuru Road, Mysuru
Ph : 0821-2555000

Narayana Multispeciality Hospital, Devanur Ring Road
M: 95380-52378

Jayadeva Hospital KRS Road, Kumbarakoppal, Mysuru
Ph : 0821-2336000
Ph : 0821-2421500

Clearmedi Radiant Hospital, Vijayanagar 3rd Stage
Ph: 0821-2336666

JSS Hospital, M.G. Road
M: 99804-43489

Brindavan Hospital, Jayalakshmipuram
Ph: 0821-4000782
0821-6626666

Suyog Hospital, Ramakrishna Nagar
Ph: 0821-2533600
M: 97395-55908

Ambulance: 108
- B.G.S Apollo Hospital : 2568888
- Chandrakala Hospital : 4288639
- Gopala Gowda Hospital : 2445037
- Holdsworth Memorial Hospital : 2420102
- Kamakshi Hospital : 2545981

COVID-19 Helpline Numbers: 1077 or 0821-2423800

Printed by T.S. Gopinath and published by M. Govinde Gowda on behalf of Academy Newspapers Private Limited at Academy Newspapers Private Limited, 15-C, Industrial 'A' Layout, Bannimantap, Mysuru-570 015. Editor: M. Govinde Gowda. Phone: 2496520/2496521/2496523/ 2496526/2496527/2496528 Fax: 0821-2496525, 2496530. City offices: Visveshwaraya Building, III Floor, K.R. CIRCLE, Mysuru-570 001, Ph: 2431774 and No. 114, D.Devaraj Urs Road, Mysuru-570 001, Ph: 2428695, E-mail address: voice@starofmysore.com, For Advertisements: ad@starofmysore.com, RNI Reg. No. 29894/78.